

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02471 011122Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

AID-05 SNM-02 OES-06 EB-08 DLOS-06 SAL-01 DEAE-00

/096 W

-----011249Z 004755 /53

R 011030Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8818

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2471

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TH BM

SUBJECT: THAI FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO BURMA

REF: RANGOON 0233

SUMMARY: MFA OFFICIAL'S VIEWS OF FM UPPADIT'S VISIT TO BURMA LAST WEEK WERE MORE UPBEAT THAN THOSE EVIDENTLY HELD BY BURMESE (REFTEL). THAI PURPORT TO HOPE THAT SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND TO FISHING DISPUTES AND THAT RELATIONS WITH BURMA WILL IMPROVE THROUGH JOINT WORKING GROUP WHICH MFA OFFICIAL SAID WILL BE SET UP DURING VISIT TO BANGKOK BY BURMESE FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF ON FEB 1 DISCUSSED RECENT VISIT TO BURMA BY FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT WITH MFA OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED FM ON TRIP. MFA OFFICIAL HAD LITTLE TO ADD TO INFORMATION REPORTED REFTTEL, BUT REFLECTED MORE OPTIMISTIC (AND PROBABLY LESS REALISTIC) VIEWS THAN BURMESE EVIDENTLY HOLD REGARDING VISIT. HE CAME AWAY, FOR EXAMPLE, CONVINCED THAT SOME SORE TO JOINT COMMITTEE TO WORK OUT BORDER AND FISHING PROBLEMS WOULD BE SET UP UPON RETURN VISIT BY GUB FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS. HE SAID THAT NO DETAILS ABOUT COMPOSITION OF JOINT WORKING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 02471 011122Z

GROUP HAD BEEN AGREED UPON DURING RANGOON VISIT, BUT DREW DISTINCTION, AS DID UPPADIT IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS, BETWEEN THIS NEW GROUP AND THE ALREADY ESTABLISHED JOINT BORDER COMMITTEE.

2. RE FISHING DISPUTES, MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAILAND REMAINS HOPEFUL THAT SOME SORT OF ACCOMMODATION CAN BE MADE WHEREBY

THAI FISHERMEN ARE ABLE TO WORK BURMESE WATERS AND REMIT TAX TO GUB FOR FISHING RIGHTS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THAILAND IS PREPARED TO PURCHASE FISH FROM BURMESE FISHERMEN (REMARKING THAT BURMESE DIET IS NOT AS FISH-ORIENTED AS IS THE THAI), AND THAILAND HAD PROPOSED BUYING BACK THE THAI FISHING TRAWLERS BEING HELD BY THE BURMESE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BURMESE HAD NOT SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN LETTING THAILAND BUY BACK THE VESSELS AND SAID THAT HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE BURMESE VIEWPOINT BECAUSE THE TRAWLERS WOULD SIMPLY RETURN TO WORK BURMESE WATERS AS SOON AS THEY WERE RELEASED. HE ESTIMATED THAT THERE REMAIN BETWEEN 100 AND 150 THAI FISHERMEN IMPRISONED IN BURMA. MFA OFFICIAL ALSO NOTED THAT THAILAND FEELS IT MUST WORK OUT FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH BANGLADESH, INDIA AND SRI LANKA AS WELL AS BURMA BECAUSE THAI WATERS CANNOT SUPPORT THE COUNTRY'S SEAFOOD NEEDS, AND THAILAND'S ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITIES ARE CREATING INCREASING DIFFICULTIES FOR THE RTG.

3. RE NARCOTICS, MFA OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT BURMESE HAVE DURING PAST YEAR SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES, A CHANGE OF HEART WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO NE WIN'S PERSONAL INTEREST FOLLOWING HIS DISCOVERY THAT HIS SON WAS AN ADDICT. HE NOTED THAT THAILAND AND BURMA REALLY MUST WORK TOGETHER IN THE BORDER AREA IN ORDER TO MAKE ANY SIZEABLE IMPACT AGAINST TRAFFICKERS, BUT ADDED THAT THE BORDER SITUATION "IS VERY COMPLEX". NARCOTICS AND OTHER SMUGGLING WOULD, NEVERTHELESS BE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE PROPOSED WORKING GROUP.

4. COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH AMEMBASSY RANGOON'S ASSESSMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 02471 011122Z

THAT ANTI-GUB INSURGENTS ARE PRIMARY STUMBLING BLOCK TO IMPROVED COOPERATION BETWEEN THAILAND AND BURMA. THAI, NEVERTHELESS, EVIDENTLY WANT RELATIONS AT LEAST TO IMPROVE AS A RESULT OF THE UPPADIT VISIT, AND MFA OFFICIAL WAS CONVINCED THAT THAI EXPECT SOMETHING TO COME OF THEIR JOINING WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, FISHING DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO02471
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770035-0478
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770287/aaaaczbi.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9e7308ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 RANGOON 233
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3445775
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO BURMA
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, EFIS, PLOS, TH, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e7308ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009